

Watchman & Journal.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1889.

OUR grandmotherly contemporary of the Queen City has seemed a trifle staggered all the week.

MR. DEBOER'S report on the condition of the schools of Washington county is commended to the careful attention of the citizens of the several towns. The work for the new educational machinery in this county has been fully and admirably laid out.

GOVERNOR LOWRY came up to the scratch nobly when he demanded the extradition of Sullivan and Kilrain. If he would do as well in preventing the perpetration of the outrages on negroes in the state, he would win the eternal respect of good citizens everywhere.

A MORE revolting affair than the prize fight at St. Louis, in which a boy eighteen years old was killed by his young opponent, cannot be imagined. The fight was for a prize of \$30, but if the murderer does not receive the reward of a long sentence, justice is not much at home in St. Louis.

CARL SCHURZ is named as a possible successor to Sunset Cox in congress. Mr. Schurz has ability and is an honest man. The democratic wing of the house is not overburdened with either brains or honesty at present and could well welcome the German orator to a seat. His eloquence, too, would be an attractive diversion to those who are compelled to listen to house debates.

JUDGE DICKSON of Cincinnati says the most popular law in Ohio is that which taxes the saloons. It is a high-license law, and it works admirably in the interest of temperance. That it is opposed strenuously by democrats, both as private citizens and judges on the bench, is evidence that it is working satisfactorily to the better element of the state. Ohio democrats never posed as guardians of the home and good morals.

It is often asked why there are not more American steamship lines. One answer will be found in the limited number of contracts given by the post-office department for mail service to the existing lines. Of the \$375,000 paid for foreign transportation in the last year, but \$47,000 went to American lines, although these lines were willing to do the work for less than the foreign lines. Here is a case where protection is surely no tax.

A WAIL will doubtless go up from democratic papers over the way Captain Stiles of the regular army prevented an illegal election at Oklahoma, last Saturday. It strikes us that the orders under which the captain acted were entirely proper in principle, and the way he executed them was refreshing. Three times he dispersed the crowd, and he stood ready to do it three times more if necessary. Such vigorous action is the best thing in the world for Oklahoma.

THERE is very general complaint from school teachers in the country districts that they do not receive enough pay. They are quite right in protesting, and the best protest they can make is that which they are making when they leave the work for something more remunerative. It is noted that teachers this fall are not to be obtained so easily as usual. It is poor economy for any town to have cheap teachers, but cheap teachers always go with cheap wages.

PROFESSOR HARRIS, commissioner of education, thinks illiteracy is not increasing in the South, although the figures of the last census seem to indicate it. He attributes the conclusion drawn from the census to the greater care and thoroughness in preparing it, as compared with previous enumerations. It is a happy sign for the South if there is but the smallest gain in the line of education. Recent race outbreaks will find their best remedy in wider educational efforts.

THE law which several states, notably New York and Minnesota, have adopted, making the execution of criminals private, and especially excluding reporters, does not have the effect of preventing the publication of reports. What the eyes of the enterprising scribes do not behold their imaginations readily supply, and the harrowing details are just as harrowing as ever. The "dull, sickening thud" is heard as before, and, if possible, it is duller and more sickening. Yet the law is a good one.

BISHOP FOWLER of the Methodist church warns our country that injustice to China in excluding her subjects from the United States will lead to something serious. It is not likely to be anything more serious than the exclusion of Americans from China, which would be justifiable, certainly. We cannot ask for privileges we are not willing to award. But the talk about bloodshed is nonsense. It takes

time, education, money and character to make soldiers, and China is still far behind the times.

It is reported that polygamy is being rapidly forced to the wall in Utah. This is evidence that no deeply religious feeling is at the bottom of the creed of this sect, for if there were suppression would not suppress. Polygamy is an offense to all that is best in the country, and it was sure to go. All that was needed was some one to say so—and Senator Edmunds was the man.

ONCE in a while something is invented that directly and perceptibly benefits the poor man. Here comes a scheme of reducing fares on railroads in Hungary, which, besides being a boon to the poor, seems to benefit the proprietors of the roads, who happen in this case to be the government. The rates for travelers in second-class cars are: For the first fifteen and one-half miles, sixteen cents; for each succeeding "zone" of ten miles, sixteen cents; for the fourteenth zone and those beyond, a rate that varies with circumstances. The system has been in operation since the first of August, and is growing exceedingly popular. The increase in passengers is reported to have been from twelve to thirty thousand in a few days on one road. The system is especially meant for the sparsely-settled sections. About the larger cities in this country railroad rates are made quite low for short distances, but nowhere, we believe, has anything of the sort been attempted in the rural portions of the country. The "zone" idea is worthy the consideration of railroad magnates in Vermont. If there is money in it, it will surely commend itself to them.

It is to be regretted that our government has not been able to take a more dignified position in regulating the Behring Sea seal fisheries. The trouble began when congress passed the law obliging the executive branch to suppress what it termed "poaching." Whether taking seal in Behring Sea is poaching or not is an open question. Indeed, by the ordinary application of international law, the sea is an open one, and the United States has no jurisdiction whatever over it. We claim some rights through an old treaty, but apparently no one recognizes them. Before passing any law on the matter we should have come to an understanding with Great Britain and Russia, which, with the United States, are the only countries interested. The adoption of certain restrictions on seal-catching by these three powers would have simplified matters. Even then we fail to see how what, by all precedent, is an open sea can possibly be subjected to regulations. It would really be a convention that would have a strong moral, but not legal, weight. It is very desirable to protect the seal fisheries, but the principle of international law involved is more important than the fisheries. The high seas must ever be neutral and common. Before another season opens there should be a perfect understanding with the other powers on this subject.

THUS the Windsor Journal on the governorship question:

"The Montpelier Watchman, in its prospectus, gravely announces that an active canvass for the governorship is in progress. Everybody has heard the story of Patrick Maloney as narrated by himself. 'Twas on the verge of a great battle, and the general riding down the lines anxiously inquired if Patrick Maloney was present. 'Prisint, yer honor,' says Pat. 'Then let the battle go on,' says the general, mightily relieved of anxiety. The Watchman has spoken, and the public is relieved."

Never mind the flavor of this chestnut. The Journal has unwittingly presented a great historic truth. In all the notable political contests in this state the WATCHMAN has not only been "prisant, yer honor," on the right side, in the front rank, but it has invariably led the fight. Our drowsy contemporary has sometimes been awakened by the din of the conflict, not to join in the fight, but to climb the fence and be ready to get down on the winning side, or scoop in an office if there should be one lying round loose within reach. Rumor credits the Journal editor with an ambition for the lieutenant-governorship, and possibly he may have a prospective as well as present interest in the decision of this question of promotion. However this may be, if there should chance to be any unappropriated official pap at the disposal of the next convention, and the roll of the hungry and thirsty should be called, very likely our Windsor contemporary would eagerly respond, "Prisint, yer honor."

Progressing Favorably.

Commissioner Valentine's plans are developing hopefully. We received last week, too late for publication, the letter that appears elsewhere in this issue. Events relating to the business of his bureau have followed in quick succession since that letter was given out. The commissioner is now able to say that it is probable that three small colonies of Swedes will be established in the state next spring. One will be settled at Wilmington in Windham county, another at Weston in Windsor county, near the point where the counties of Windsor, Windham, Benning-

ton and Rutland touch. This point is favorably located, in that the overflow from this colony can spread out into the adjoining towns of the four counties named. Commissioner Valentine is this week visiting towns in Orange county with a view of selecting a site for the third colony. He intimates his determination to settle a colony in no community that does not see that its interests will be advanced by such a colony. He insists first that the lands shall be sold on such conditions as shall make payments easy and certain. The proposals in the two communities mentioned are as follows: (1) The lands will be sold and in the first year only taxes and interest paid by the purchasers; in the second and each ensuing year \$100 will be paid till the purchase price is extinguished. (2) The seller is to furnish a cow to the family to which he sells and the parties selling, individually or combined, are to provide teams, horses or oxen, sufficient for use of the colonists in cultivating their lands, and from \$10 to \$25 in cash to each family to buy seed, first provisions and cooking utensils. The townspeople also agree to furnish transportation from the railway station to the lands. It is absolutely essential that the proposed colonists be treated with considerate kindness. The first colony must be a success. Much of the future and permanent success of this scheme to repopulate these abandoned lands depends on the good report these pioneers shall send to their friends in Sweden. These people are not beggars and they ask no gratuities. Everything that is advanced to them—animals, produce or cash—they will repay from the fruits of their industry.

In Wilmington the selection will be made from about fifty farms, ranging from \$5 per acre downward and all having buildings in a better or worse state of repair. Mr. Nordgren, the Swede who has frequently been mentioned in this connection, has been examining these farms and expresses his surprise and pleasure at the condition of things as he finds them in Vermont. He frankly says that he believes these farms scattered over Vermont with buildings ready for occupancy present better prospects of success to his countrymen than do the plains of the West, situated, as all desirable lands must now be, far away from railroads without fences or buildings of any kind.

The Wilmington colony will probably comprise about twelve families, the Weston thirteen, and the third, which is yet to be located, from ten to fifteen, and they will probably arrive about the first of May if present plans are carried out. The importance of a strong, friendly, liberal and hospitable local interest to the success of this place which the commissioner is working out with much zeal and discretion can not be overrated. Without this the commissioner can do nothing, and a plan full of the promise of success will fail.

Rum and Fish.

In the platform adopted at the state convention in 1886, the democrats declared, in their resolution on the liquor traffic, that, "though opposed to summary laws, we demand the enforcement of existing laws until repealed." Is it possible that the sober, dispassionate, law-abiding democracy of Vermont intended that this "demand" should be taken in a Pickwickian sense? The resolution of 1886 has not been revoked, the prohibitory law has not been repealed, but no democrat has exhibited a consuming zeal for its "enforcement." On the contrary, the editor of the Argus and Patriot seems to lie awake nights coining hard, bad names for those law-abiding people who believe in obedience to the laws of the land and are directly instrumental in their enforcement. Every one knows that the editor is supreme in the Argus office and that he is the democratic party of Vermont. He was the chief manipulator of the convention of 1886. He laid all the wires, and when he pulled one the puppet at the other end performed his allotted part. He did the bulk of the talking on that occasion, making, according to the tally of a curious spectator, some two hundred speeches, more or less. So the Argus editor, in his role of political boss, "demands the enforcement of existing [prohibitory] laws until repealed," but in his editorial capacity deals damnation to every man, citizen or official, who lifts a finger for their enforcement.

Having looked on that picture, let us gaze on this. Last summer some impetuous Frenchmen, eking out an existence by fishing in the waters of Lake Champlain, were caught or entrapped—reports are conflicting—into a trespass on the fishing statutes of the state. The Argus fairly howled for the punishing, to the fullest extent of the law, of the men who had taken a little food from the public waters. With righteous indignation it exposes the tricks to which these poachers on the public waters resort. "One man had been surreptitiously shipping wall-eyed pike and black bass by steamboat, secreting them in egg cases, with a couple of layers of eggs on top of them, while others were also personally interested in helping those caught violating the

law to get out of the scrape." Another luckless Cannuck who had by chance come upon and killed a deer while swimming in the lake, as he alleged, is declared amenable to a fine of \$50 for his heinous offense, and the state's attorney is adjured to prosecute "this plain and palpable violation of law as promptly and vigorously as he would a violation of the liquor law." It is singular how great a crime it is to catch a few fish, perchance contrary to law, or for fishermen to resort to strange devices to elude the vigilance of officers whose eyes are sharpened by abundant rewards, but how harmless a thing it is to sell liquor in violation of law and resort to all the devices of the devil to elude detection! Put the bricks to the fisherman, but let the rumrunner alone,—this seems to be Vermont democracy—Argus democracy.

A Word from Commissioner Valentine.

Believing it to be best, in matters relating to the general welfare, to take the public into one's confidence, and freely make known such facts as are clearly of public interest, I am glad to give to the press any and all information pertaining to the labors of the commissioner of industrial interests in Vermont. To be sure, the final report will not possess the fresh, new features which might characterize it were the bureau conducted on another and not unusual plan, but experience has thus far shown that the course pursued is the best.

The discussion caused by the letter to our listers, relating to the possible colonization of a good class of immigrants on our unoccupied lands, has called attention in many quarters to the cheap and good farms, with dwellings ready for occupancy, which are scattered over our state. The bureau is flooded with letters from within and without the state, asking for information concerning them, with a view of acquiring homes among our hills and valleys near church and school. It has been found necessary to issue a circular, giving location of such lands and the names of parties to whom to write for further particulars. This circular, however, gives but a limited idea of the extent and availability of our abandoned farms. The word "abandoned" is used advisedly, for, when farms once successfully cultivated by sturdy yeomen, occupying comfortable dwellings, are now given up to weeds and encroaching forests, with the houses and barns standing empty, windows broken, and roofless perhaps, if there is any word other than "abandoned" which will give an idea of the desolation existing, the commissioner does not know what that word is. The legislature did wisely in using the dreaded word in the act creating the bureau.

Those objecting to the word "abandoned" should have stood with the commissioner and four others last week on an elevation in the northeast corner of Bennington county and looked over into the town of Mt. Tabor in Rutland county, and Weston in Windsor county. Fifteen unoccupied houses on many uncultivated farms, still showing signs of former fertility, were in view, with more than as many barns and outhouses. These farms were all contiguous, and as many others were hid from sight by maple groves and in the valley of a branch of the West river. A tract of more than four square miles was here spread out, fenced, and with dwelling-houses and barns, without a single inhabitant. Nor is this all. Off to the east, through Windsor and Windham counties, nearly to the Connecticut river, lies farm after farm, unoccupied and abandoned. In Peru and Landgrove to the west and south, the same condition prevails. It cannot now be said how many farms there are in Vermont with empty buildings, but it is safe to say that they will number thousands, and there are other thousands with buildings gone and cellar holes marking their sites. The cause of this is not now under discussion; we are simply stating facts.

Our state has natural advantages in its marble, granite and slate quarries, in its iron and other minerals, in its forests, water power and manufactures, in its rich soil and sweet pastures, ready, as in the past, to produce abundance of grain and vegetables, the best of butter and the fleetest of horses. The reverse side is not confined to Vermont, but is shared by her sister states of the East, and should not discourage us in our expectation of a bright future, for we believe that her waste places are to be occupied and her old prestige as an agricultural state is to be restored. Whether this is in the near or remote future depends upon our citizens. It is believed by the observing that Vermont's days of rapid development are near at hand, but to ignore the fact of farms abandoned is but to delay the day of their repopulation. It is a matter of surprise that citizens of supposed intelligence should, in the face of facts lately published, deny that there are abandoned farms in Vermont. A mistake is made in thus doubting the intelligence of our people. If such gentlemen do not know of the facts, modesty should dictate reserve in making positive assertions, even at the risk of losing a passing cheer.

Within seven miles of the flourishing village of Brattleboro commences an area of "abandoned" farms, and the view from the elevation looking into Mt. Tabor can be duplicated many times in Windham county. Marlboro, Halifax, Newfare, Guilford, Wardsboro, Townsend, Jamaica and, indeed, almost every town in Windham county, report numerous abandoned farms and lands unoccupied, productive lands too, which can be bought from \$3 to \$5 per acre. It is safe to say that these farms and lands represent more than 40,000 acres in Windham county alone, and when we consider that other counties report equal and greater amounts, the aggregation is simply astonishing. It is frankly admitted that there was no conception of the state of things which investigation has disclosed. There is believed to be a remedy, and the sooner the facts are looked candidly in the face, the sooner will the remedy be found.

From the first the aid of the press was expected, and it has been generously given. The press of this and other states has treated the subject with great candor and in a manner to advance the interests of our Eastern States. Criticisms have been valuable and commendations gratifying. The first we invite and the last we are thankful for, not personally, but as representing a bureau which we hope will be the means of accomplishing much good to our state. In this connection I would add that the opinion of any writer should have little weight who sees "a political plot," "a deep-laid scheme," "the footprints of the boss," in the suggestion of the possibility of increasing the tillers of the soil and thereby reclaiming our waste places by the production of the hardy, sober, industrious, honest, thrifty Swede.

A. B. VALENTINE.

Bennington, September, 1889.

Gossip from the Hub.

Editor Watchman:—The most interesting political convention held for years in this state occurs Wednesday. Off years are usually the occasion for lively times in Massachusetts, for it is in the off years that the democrats have a fighting chance of electing a governor. They think they will have an unusually good chance this year. One fact is pretty well understood, and that is that "Billy" Russell, as the younger men call Hon. W. E. Russell, will get the democratic nomination. He will be a strong candidate,—there is no use denying that. He is a very popular man, and the support of the Harvard University element through the state, which he will have, is something not to be despised. Then the democrats count on the nomination of Mr. Brackett at Wednesday's convention, and this, they claim, will be a weaker nomination than that of Mr. Crapo. At all events, they will enter the campaign with enthusiasm; and that is a reason why the republican gathering will be interesting.

It is impossible to predict who will be nominated. It is certain that Mr. Brackett leads on paper, but there is an unpledged element and the Crapo men have a very powerful backing, which is likely to make itself felt on the floor of the convention. The "Old Guard" sometimes have a way of "getting there," and the solemn assurances of Mr. Burdett, the Crapo manager, that his man will pull through are not without their effect. Mr. Burdett is an astute politician, and Hon. A. E. Pillsbury and Hon. T. C. Bates, who are with him, are the best kind of backers. It remains a fact that if the two candidates were in the field, on the same footing, Mr. Crapo would easily win. His reputation as a substantial business man and his very creditable career in congress have helped him with conversative men. He is rich, but he has not unloaded "a barrel," reports to the contrary notwithstanding. But Lieutenant-Governor Brackett is in with the men whose faces have been familiar at the state house for a few years back. That he is lieutenant-governor at present is his strongest card in this fight. This does not imply that he would not make an excellent governor, for he certainly would. There has not been bitterness enough in the canvass to cause much bad blood, but the defeated man will feel pretty sore. It is this soreness that the democrats are counting on a good deal. The tact of the managers of the successful wing will be responsible in large measure for the harmony which ought to come out of the whole fight.

The matter of the lieutenant-governorship is causing much discussion and wire-pulling. The candidates are Messrs. Haile of Springfield, Walker of Belchertown, Johnson of Brookfield and Jewett of Lowell. All have headquarters opened at some hotel. While anything is possible, it is admitted by acute disinterested judges that Mr. Haile would help the ticket more than any one of the others.

The sale of symphony concert tickets has caused almost as much talk here as the gubernatorial canvass. Much of the unusual interest shown is due to a desire to see the new conductor, Mr. Nikisch. He is a Hungarian, who is an exponent of the new and progressive school of Germany,—which which opposes the Leipzig conservatory. Still, Boston really loves music. Otherwise such high premiums would not have been paid for seats. In view of the extraordinary demand for tickets this year the suggestion of the Herald that another public rehearsal be given is worth considering. It might be tried to advantage next year.

The address of the nationalists to the voters of the state on lobbying at the state house is thought about more than it is talked about in print. The influence of great corporations,—such as the West End Street Railway Company, for instance,—was quite apparent last winter. The nationalists direct their attack especially at the practice of ex-governors appearing as counsel before legislative committees. This is a slap at ex-Governor Robinson, and there is force in the point.

The latest literary venture here since the starting of the magazine called the Nationalist is the revival of the New England Magazine, under the editorial supervision of Rev. E. E. Hale and E. D. Mead. The latter will be the practical editor, while Mr. Hale will be a frequent contributor. The indefatigable industry of Mr. Hale is the admiration of every one and the envy of all literary workers. He seems to have a finger in everything and to more than keep pace with the most advanced thought in all lines. It is understood that the financial backer of the magazine is General J. L. Chamberlain of Maine. While making no preliminary flourish of trumpets, the new periodical is taking very well,—better, in fact, by far than the projectors anticipated. M. Boston, Mass., Sept. 24, 1889.

Press Notes.

Nor a single republican daily paper in Connecticut has espoused the cause of constitutional prohibition, and the democratic papers are solidly against it. It is very much of an orphan.—Boston Herald.

ONE of the New York newspapers has coined the word "forakering." It furnishes no definition and the context affords but little satisfaction, but in the absence of anything official it is

safe to say that to "foraker" means to get there with both feet.—Minneapolis Tribune.

THE innocent and guileless people who live in cities are no match for their country cousins. A writer in the Boston Post says that certain towns in New Hampshire and Vermont have been stocked with bogus antique furniture, which is sold at exorbitant prices to city visitors, who think they are getting old family heirlooms.—New York Tribune.

A London News reporter the other day discovered a man, a stevedore, in London, who wouldn't take a tip. "No, thanks," he replied when the reporter offered him a shilling for a slight service, "I would rather not. I am a teetotaler, and like to feel independent even in strike times." That man could make a fortune by coming to New York and exhibiting himself in a museum.—New York Tribune.

It is not very judicious nor courageous advice which the National Baptist Association gives the southern negroes,—that they should abandon the South in a body to escape the persecutions to which they are subjected. It might be a fortunate circumstance for the country if the race problem could be thus easily evaded, but it is obvious that the plan the Baptist Association suggests is wildly impracticable, and unworthy of serious consideration.—Boston Journal.

SECRETARY OF WAR PROCTOR is a prudent man. Just as soon as he heard that our aldermen had voted to visit him in Washington about the Charles River bridges he started for Boston to head them off. He has been here and seen the bridges and left the impression that he will need no further aldermanic information. His action is hard on the aldermen, but it confirms the general belief that Mr. Proctor is a hard-headed, sensible man, who knows the difference between a rose and a cabbage.—Boston Evening Record.

EVERYWHERE the growl of discontent is heard from the slaves of the old kings, Toil and Tyranny. One of these days—not far distant—there will be a revolution,—produced by similar causes as the French revolution, yet different, no doubt, in the nature of outbreak—and the sagacious world will be astounded again to discover that explosions world will go right on and prepare the programme for another explosion. A trifle monotonous the old story is getting to be? And the key to it all is: Man's a pig.—Cooley's Weekly.

DOUBTLESS there are many who admire that book of Edward Bellamy entitled "Looking Backward," and think it a glorious picture, but one that can never be, because they think men are too selfish and too zealous for money. As a matter of fact, however, men struggle for money for what it brings, because, under the present system, they must have it. But could men have the luxuries of life, as they would have under the system so glowingly described in this book, without a perpetual struggle for them, they would soon cease the scramble for wealth.—Rutland Telegram.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY has met with a great loss. John Cranston, the renowned rusher of its foot-ball team, has committed matrimony. This further necessitates his engaging in some business scheme, as his financial resources are limited. Between being a bridegroom, a business man and a student, John will hardly have, in the opinion of the Harvard faculty, any spare time to devote to the noble science of foot ball. Mrs. Cranston did not appreciate what large interests were disastrously involved in her marriage. Had she appreciated them she would no doubt have put off the wedding until John had graduated.—Waterbury American.

Washington County Public Schools.

The first meeting of the Washington County Board of Education took place during May last. Since then its secretary prepared and forwarded to each member of the board a set of printed questions to which he, after having made proper investigation, returned replies. The board has in this way possessed itself of fairly reliable information regarding every district school in the county. Some of the facts developed are of grave interest to the people of the county.

The town system is in force in Waitsfield and Warren, Cabot having returned, since the last state report, was issued, to the district system. In Montpelier and Northfield exist fairly well graded and properly maintained, well attended, well supplied and properly maintained. The state of repairs, sanitary conditions and furnishings necessary to proper school management of the schools in the county can be seen from an inspection of the following statement: As to state of repairs, 98 are reported good; 59, fair; 42, poor; total 199. As to sanitary condition, 199 are reported good; 19, fair; 44, bad; total 199. As regards supplies, 40 are well supplied; 45, fairly well; 119, poorly supplied; total 199. It thus appears that two per cent of our schools are in a bad state of repairs, 22 per cent are questionable as to sanitary conditions, and the astonishingly large percentage, 58, is reached of schools not owning the common, necessary, almost indispensable, furnishings of instructions, globes, maps, lexicons and works of reference.

It was deemed wise to investigate the question of possible cases in which two small schools might be joined to form one large and interesting organization. In this connection nearly every member of the board reports distance, prejudice, jealousy and ignorance of the utility of such organization as obstacles in the way. Mr. Lamson of Cabot urged that numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 14 ought to be united and that they will make a good graded district, the schools to be located between 8 and 11. A part of No. 12, in the same town, can go with 13, and a part of No. 2 with 6. To this scheme the objection of distance alone exists. In East Montpelier, No. 10 might be divided between 5 and 11, without much inconvenience. In Marshfield, No. 8 should have a new house or unite with No. 5. The member from Northfield reports six schools as having, respectively, 4, 9, 2, 6, 11 and 12 pupils only. Much good would result from joining some of these if the circumstances permit. In Waterbury, Nos. 2 and 17 might be consolidated with No. 1. No. 4 also, could easily be divided and united with Nos. 8 and 11. Unquestionably the main objection to consolidating small district schools is expressed by the term "distance." Rough, long, snowdrifted roads, cold, chilling, wet weather are hard things, strong facts, to dispose of, but the school board of education respectfully urges people to consider the advisability of union where good opportunities for such steps exist. Experience has demonstrated the wisdom of concentrating intellectual, financial and social energies.

The subject of attendance upon schools was also studied and fairly accurate statistics were obtained, considering the fact that every town has not completed a census of